Year	Proceeded on Premature Retirement
2003	72
2004	116
2005	58
2006 (Upto 31.10.2006)	19

A majority of the pilots released from the service have already completed their useful tenure as pilots. These exists do not affect the operational status of the squadrons.

(e) The improvement in the job profile of the IAF pilots is a continuous process keeping in view the job specific requirements and operational necessity.

Increase in suicide cases in defence forces

37. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:
SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cases of suicide/killing self in the defence forces are on the increase these days;

(b) if so, the number of such cases which took place during the last one year, rank-wise;

(c) what are the reasons for such suicides/self-killing of the jawans/ officers of the armed forces; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to stop such an action amongst the forces?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) From 1st January, 2006 to 14th November, 2006 the number of suicides in the Armed Forces were 128 which include 5 Officers, 5 Junior Commissioned Officers (JCOs) and 118 Other Ranks (ORs).

(c) In majority of the cases, this extreme step was resorted to due to personal and family problems like marital discords, medical problems, depression, property issues and also organisational factors.

(d) The measures adopted in this regard include:—

(i) Increased formal and informal interaction between senior and junior officers, improved accessibility of leaders and frequent interaction of junior leaders with soldiers, better man management and prompt attendance to grievances;

(ii) organizing buddy system and strengthening time tested reporting and feedback system in the unit;

(iii) Liberalized leave policy to attend to domestic problems;

(iv) Identification and counselling of persons who are at higher risk of combat stress by Regimental Medical Officers, junior leaders and unit commanders.

(v) Counselling by Religious Teachers.

(vi) Psychological counselling by psychiatrists where required.

(vii) Training capsules in relaxation exercise including yoga/meditation.

(viii) Rotation of units and individuals to minimize exposure to stress.

(ix) Post Army Medical Corps Junior Commissioned Officers as psychological counsellors who will interact with the troops and alleviate their stress related problems.

The measures are being personally monitored by the senior officers. All officers and other personnel in the Services have been sensitized on the above issues.

Discrimination in compensation to soldiers

38. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rehabilitation assistance/compensation paid to a soldier who is maimed or killed during declared war and fight against terrorists/insurgents very;